

application is a division and on which the Examiner imposed a restriction requirement.

The Claims are Supported by the Specification

Claims 15-17 and 18-20 are supported at least by Figure 6A and by the Specification at page 32, lines 1-14 and at page 40, lines 23-25.

The Claims Recite Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 15-20 recite structure and methods for a novel computer process. Courts hold such claims are statutory subject matter within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 101. Moreover, a computer process or structure is not "printed matter" as that phrase has been defined by the courts.

The Claims are Allowable Over the Art Cited by the Examiner in Application Serial No. 07/526,424

The Examiner rejected Claims 23-68 in application serial no. 07/526,424 "under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Shimaoka et al". The present application is a division of application serial no. 08/083,361, which is a file wrapper continuation of application serial no. 07/526,424.

Applicant's Claims 15-17 supersede canceled Claims 29 and 30 of application serial no. 07/526,424. Claims 16 and 17 are dependent on Claim 15 which recites "memory means containing

(i) relation definition table means comprised of at least one relation type record [which] includes cardinality data" and

means . . . for detecting a cardinality violation for a first relation type, said means for detecting comprising means for determining whether said relation instance table means contains . . . a first relation . . . between a first entity and a second entity; and means for determining whether said relation instance table means contains . . . a second relation . . . between said first entity and a third entity.

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Applicant's Claims 18-20 supersede canceled Claim 51 of application serial no. 07/526,424. Claims 19 and 20 are dependent on Claim 18 which recites "storing . . . a plurality of relation type records . . . [which include] cardinality data" and

detecting a cardinality violation for a first relation type wherein said step of detecting comprises determining whether said relation instance table means contains . . . a first relation . . . between a first entity and a second entity; and determining whether said relation instance table means contains . . . a second relation . . . between said first entity and a third entity.

The Specification teaches at page 32, lines 8-14 that a relation type can be one-to-one, i.e. exclusive, or one-to-many, i.e. non-exclusive. In contrast, Shimaoka et al. teach a two-dimensional array 40 (Shimaoka et al.'s Figure 6) whose elements are pairs of alphanumeric characters. Each alphanumeric character pair is associated with a short alphanumeric string which describes the type of relation represented. The Examiner has failed to cite disclosure in Shimaoka et al. of the storage in relation definition records of properties of relation types beyond a short alphanumeric description. This is because Shimaoka et al. fail to teach or suggest the inclusion of cardinality data within relation definition records or a mechanism for implementing the cardinality of each type of relation as defined by various relation definition records. Claims 15 and 18 are therefore patentably distinguishable from Shimaoka et al. As Claims 16-17 and Claims 19-20 are dependent on Claims 15 and 18, respectively, Claims 16-17 and 19-20 are patentable over Shimaoka et al. for at least the reasons given above with respect to Claims 15 and 18.

Thus, all claims at issue, i.e. Claims 15-20, are patentable over Shimaoka et al. are therefore in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance of Applicant's Claims 15-20 is respectfully requested. If the Examiner's next action is other than entry of this amendment and allowance of all pending

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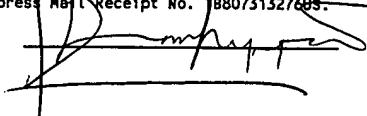
claims, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's attorney at (408) 453-9200.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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